Equijubus

Equijubus (Chinese: 马鬃龙; pinyin: *Mǎzōng lóng*; *Mǎzōng* meaning "horse mane" after the area Mǎzōng Mountain 马鬃山 in which it was found), is a genus of herbivorous hadrosauroid dinosaur from the Early Cretaceous (Aptian stage) of northwestern China.

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Discovery and naming

Skeleton in matrix

The type (and only known) specimen was found in the summer of 2000 by a Chinese-American expedition in the Mazong (= "horse mane") Shan area of China's Gansu Province.[1] In 2002 You Hialu in a dissertation named and described the species *Equijubus normani*. The generic name is derived from Latin *equus*, "horse", and *juba*, "mane". The specific epithet "normani" is in honour of British palaeontologist David B. Norman.[2] However, such a *nomen ex dissertatione* does not constitute a valid name.

The type species *Equijubus normani* was formally named in an article by You, Luo Zhexi, Neil Shubin, Lawrence Witmer, Tang Zhilu and Tang Feng in 2003.[1]

The type specimen or holotype, **IVPP V12534**, consists of a complete skull with articulated (attached) lower jaws, plus associated incomplete postcrania: nine cervical (neck), sixteen dorsal (back), and six sacral (pelvic) vertebrae. It was found in fluvio-lacustrine sediments of the Middle Grey Unit of the Xinminpu Group, Gonpoquan Basin, Mazong Shan, Gansu Province, China.[1]

Equijubus

Temporal range: Early Cretaceous, 125 Ma

Pre€ € O S D C P T J K PgN

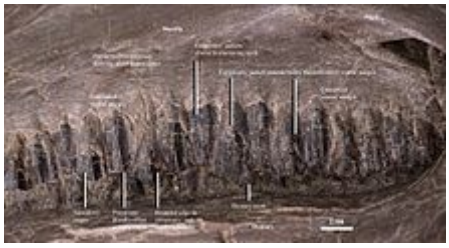
Reconstructed skeleton

Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Clade:	Dinosauria
Order:	†Ornithischia
Suborder:	†Ornithopoda
Genus:	†*Equijubus* You *et al.*, 2003
Species:	†***E. normani***
Binomial name	
†***Equijubus normani*** You *et al.*, 2003	

Wu, You & Li (2018) described grass microfossils extracted from a specimen of *Equijubus normani*, which at the time of their description were the oldest known grass fossils, and might be the oldest known evidence of a dinosaur feeding on grasses.[3]

Description

Equijubus is a relatively large euornithopod. Gregory S. Paul in 2010 estimated the length at seven metres, the weight at 2.5 tonnes.[4] A palpebral bone seems to be absent, meaning the eyes were not overshadowed by an upper rim as with most related species.



Teeth of the holotype

Phylogeny

Equijubus was described as a basal hadrosauroid dinosaur, although it may turn out to be a non-hadrosauroid iguanodont. The discoverers considered it to be the basal-most of the hadrosauroids, and suggested that this group emerged in Asia.[1]

See also

- Timeline of hadrosaur research

References

1. You, Luo, Shubin, Witmer, Tang and Tang (2003). "The earliest-known duck-billed dinosaur from deposits of late Early Cretaceous age in northwest China and hadrosaurid evolution." *Cretaceous Research*, **24**: 347-353.
2. You Hailu, 2002, *Mazongshan dinosaur assemblage from late Early Cretaceous of northwest China*. Dissertation University of Pennsylvania 164 pp
3. Yan Wu; Hai-Lu You; Xiao-Qiang Li (2018). "Dinosaur-associated Poaceae epidermis and phytoliths from the Early Cretaceous of China" (https://doi.org/10.1093/nsr/nwx145). *National Science Review*. **5** (5): 721–727. doi:10.1093/nsr/nwx145 (https://doi.org/10.1093%2Fnsr%2Fnwx145).
4. Paul, G.S., 2010, *The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs*, Princeton University Press p. 292

External links

- https://web.archive.org/web/20050305220103/http://www.sinofossa.org/sinosaur/equijubus.htm

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